Africa-1925
Current.

Back to Africa Movement.

Rev. Lewis In New Effort To Launch Ship

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Apr. 16.—The Rev. J. E. Lewis, self-styled president general of the Liberian Steamship Company and Church of God line, is launching another campaign to raise funds for the purchase of a vessel to carry Negroes to Liberia, he announced here Monday.

Chattanooga Daily Times 4-18-25

The promoter's most widely advertised venture was the building of the "Ark of the Living God" here about five years ago. It sank shortly after sliding off the ways. Later Lewis tried to purchase the motorship Angel, but the deal fell through, as did still later negotiations for the purchase of the navy collier Brutus and the liner Nile.

Now he hopes to raise $50,000 for the purchase of the British steamer Nayarit, and says a nation-wide campaign is under way to collect the funds.

NEGROES AND LIBERIA.

Of all freakish moves the effort to transport the negroes to Liberia is about the most assinine. Some negro preacher out in California wants to get fifty thousand dollars to buy a steamship to begin hauling them. He presumably knows as much about what ships cost as he does of getting the negroes to go.

He could have the Berengaria fitted up with gold and jewels and offer free transportation and he would probably get a crowd to go but it would take a lot more than that to keep them there for any length of time. If the California preacher gets his boat he probably would be able to haul ten or fifteen at a trip and in the course of the next thousand years he might get them all there.

The negroes don't dant to go to Liberia. Very few races that have migrated and become citizens are willing to leave even to return to their old homes. There is an attachment for the old country in the hearts of thousands of men and women now in America but even this does not touch the negro for he is a native of this country to all intents and purposes and has come to a point where he can exercise rights of citizenship.

To induce them to move to Liberia or some such place quite as unattractive and unprofitable for the mere offer of possible accession to administrative or executive powers is not enticing enough to draw any that are worth while. The others could in no way make any sort of a success of it.

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